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BASEL CONVENTION

Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 3–6 September 2018
Item 3 (d) (i) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019: international cooperation and coordination: Basel Convention Partnership Programme

Basel Convention Partnership Programme

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its decision BC-13/12, on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal disbanded the Working Group of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited interested Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to take the lead in the implementation of activities listed in the work programme set out in the concept note on a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1, annex II) and, based on the work undertaken, to propose further development of the concept at the regional or international level, as the need arises. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties invited interested centres to report, through the Secretariat, on the implementation of paragraph 8 of the same decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting.

2. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision BC-13/14, on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a working group of the household waste partnership that would be responsible for overseeing organizational matters pertaining to the implementation of the partnership's activities and adopted the terms of reference for the household waste partnership (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33/Rev.1, annex II). In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the Secretariat was requested to facilitate and provide expertise to the partnership, subject to the availability of funds, and to report on progress in the implementation of decision BC-13/14 to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting.

3. In paragraph 15 of decision BC-13/24, on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019, the Conference of the Parties took note of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, including with respect to budget activity fact sheet 18 on partnerships for technical assistance, submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1.

meeting,[1] which, among other things, provide for the development of a report evaluating past and ongoing partnerships to assist the Conference of the Parties in further developing target-oriented and successful partnerships.

II. Implementation

A. Follow-up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

4. During the annual meeting of the regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants held in Barcelona, Spain, from 6 to 8 November 2017, the Secretariat organized a session to discuss the concept for a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment. Furthermore, the Secretariat organized online meetings to coordinate the work of the centres undertaken pursuant to the invitations set out in decision BC-13/12. Further information is made available for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/32.

B. Household waste partnership

5. In a letter dated 2 June 2017 related to calls for information in follow-up to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its thirteenth meeting, the Secretariat requested Parties and other stakeholders to indicate their interest in becoming a member of the household waste partnership working group. As at 31 March 2018, the membership of the working group was composed of representatives of 52 Parties, 1 signatory, 4 intergovernmental organizations, 13 regional centres, 2 industry associations, 1 municipality, 12 non-governmental organizations and 2 private sector organizations. The Secretariat developed a web portal for the exchange of information among the members of the working group and invited its members to register for its use. Thanks to generous funding provided by Switzerland, the Secretariat retained the services of a consultancy company to develop an outline of an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste for consideration by the working group at its first meeting. Thanks to generous funding provided by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, the first meeting of the household waste partnership working group will take place in Port Louis from 14 to 17 May 2018. The report of the meeting will be made available on the website of the Convention.[2] Draft modules for the overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste are set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/33.

C. Further developing partnerships

6. The programme of work for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 envisions two types of partnerships in support of promoting the objectives of the Basel Convention. The first type are global partnerships established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and for which the Secretariat provides secretariat services. Over time such partnerships have included the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic[3] and, most recently, the household waste partnership.[4]

7. The second type of partnerships are those established with partners with a view to expanding the reach of the Convention, for instance by promoting the use of guidelines and tools developed under the Convention, increasing the Convention's visibility and raising awareness among a variety of stakeholders about the Convention's objectives and provisions. Cooperation through partnerships allows the exchange of Convention-related expertise with technical assistance programmes and networks of partners and their constituencies. Through cooperation with academic institutions, training curricula related to the Convention's objectives have been developed and the number of experts on Convention topics in the medium-term has increased. An important additional aspect of partnerships is the increased linkage between regional centres and partnership networks, which has helped to position regional centres as project executing agencies.

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[1] UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52/Rev.1.

[2] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/HouseholdWastePartnerships/Meetings/1stHWPMay2018/tabid/6298/Default.aspx.

[3] Established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eleventh meeting (decision BC-11/8).

[4] Whose terms of reference were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its thirteenth meeting (decision BC-13/14).

8. Pursuant to decision BC-10/19, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, the Secretariat has continuously followed international developments in respect of public and private partnerships on waste-related issues to seek to expand involvement in such partnerships. Currently, examples of such partnerships include the Global Partnership on Waste Management,[5] the Sustainable Recycling Industries initiatives[6] and the Solving the E-waste Problem initiative.[7] These monitoring activities also provide the Secretariat with the opportunity to identify potential additional stakeholders with whom to partner, as well as to explore various public and private cooperative platforms that could assist in expanding the reach of the Convention.

9. The Secretariat received a generous financial contribution from the Government of Switzerland to develop, in 2018, a report evaluating past and ongoing partnerships to assist the Conference of the Parties in further developing target-oriented and successful partnerships.

10. The report is expected, among other things, to assess the further potential to engage in strategic partnerships with stakeholders that are observers to the Basel Convention, including the private sector and civil society, towards achieving the objectives of the Basel Convention. Such partnerships would be supportive of Sustainable Development Goal 17, to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Stakeholders are also to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

III. Proposed action

11. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Open-ended Working Group

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres on the further development of the concept for a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment at the regional or international level;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the household waste partnership working group on the draft modules for the overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste[9] and requests it to revise the draft modules by 17 December 2018, taking into account discussions of the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to:

(a) Invite, by 31 October 2018, the views of Parties and observers on the potential for stakeholders to contribute to the objectives of the Basel Convention through the establishment of further partnerships or through other means of programmatic cooperation with stakeholders that are observers to the Convention;

(b) Develop, subject to availability of resources and taking into account the views submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) above, as well as the experience of relevant United Nations bodies such as the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and multilateral environmental agreements such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, a report evaluating past and ongoing partnerships, and setting out recommendations on opportunities to further develop partnerships under the Basel Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

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[5] For more information visit http://web.unep.org/ietc/what-we-do/global-partnership-waste-management-gpwm (accessed 7 May 2018).

[6] For more information visit www.sustainable-recycling.org (accessed 7 May 2018).

[7] For more information visit www.step-initiative.org (accessed 7 May 2018).

[8] UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/32.

[9] UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/33.